

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8362

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3986

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CS

SUBJECT: MCALPIN AND VESCO ASSETS IN COSTA RICA

REF: SAN JOSE 3735

1. IN COURSE OF A CONVERSATION OCTOBER 16 PRESIDENT ODUBER AGAIN ALLUDED TO HIS HOPE THAT SUBJECT ASSETS MAY REMAIN IN COSTA RICAN HANDS REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PRINCIPALS. I FELT IT ESSENTIAL THIS TIME AROUND TO COMMENT THAT WHILE THE SHORT RUN INTEREST IN THESE CASES MIGHT BE TO SEE THE ASSETS FROZEN IN COSTA RICA, I ASSUMED THAT THE LONGER RUN OBJECTIVES OF U.S. OR OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES WOULD BE TO RECAPTURE SUCH ASSETS TO SATISFY JUDGMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THIS, BUT ASSUMES THAT THE FINAL JUDGMENT AND INVESTIGATIONS TO DETERMINE THE RIGHTFUL OWNERS OF THE ASSETS WOULD PROBABLY TAKE A LONG TIME. COSTA RICA WOULD THUS COCUINUE TO BENEFIT FROM THE ASSETS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THIS COUNTRY'S COURTS APPROVED THEIR REPATRIATION.

2. THE PRESIDENT HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO TELL ME ABOUT HIS PLANS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES, BUT I BELIEVE A VISIT THIS YEAR IS STILL PROBABLE AND THAT A MORE DETAILED BRIEFING BY THE SEC AND THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT STILL BE USEFUL.

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